

THE Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION SINCE 1877

BRIEFS

GAINES: MOVE STATUES TO APPROPRIATE PLACE

MEMPHIS, TN. (BP) — Southern Baptist Convention President Steve Gaines, senior pastor of Bellevue Church in suburban Memphis, is among about a dozen Southern Baptist signatories of a letter requesting that a statue in Memphis of Confederate Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest be moved from a public park, due to Davis' "support of the enslavement of African Americans," Gaines said. "Fair-minded Americans acknowledge that slavery was cruel and unchristian. Indeed, slavery stands as one of the darkest blights of our nation's history. Thus, these statues should be relocated to less prominent, more appropriate settings."

CHINA AUTHORITIES TO ELIMINATE CHURCHES?

CHINA (BP) — China's communist dictatorship started Christians earlier this month by tightening its choke-hold on churches, banning Christian education for children and church worship unregistered with the government "as if intending to eliminate all house churches at once," China Aid told Morning Star News. In the city of Guangzhou in Guangdong Province in southern China, police confronted members of unregistered churches at their homes to warn them not to attend worship services.

OKLA. BAPTIST LEADER TO RETIRE IN APRIL 2018

OKLA. CITY, Ok. (BP) — Anthony L. Jordan, the longest-serving executive director-treasurer of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma (BGCO), announced Sept. 12 he will retire on April 15 of next year. A graduate of Southwest Baptist University (BA) in Bolivar, Mo., he earned MDiv. and DMin. degrees from New Orleans Seminary where he was selected for the distinguished alumnus award in 1999. Previously a pastor for over 28 years in Oklahoma and other states, he served as BGCO president in 1990-92. Jordan and his wife Paula have a son, Adrian, and daughter, Alisha, and one grandchild.



PROGRESS — Piles of mud-out debris and other ruined materials from Farrington Mission in Houston's Fifth Ward line the road for future removal. Repairing the mission is estimated to cost \$75,000, with \$40,000 of that going toward its women's medical clinic. (BP photo)

Urgent call for more volunteers

By William M. Perkins Jr.
Editor

The mass feeding unit of Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief (MBDR) is going full force at Idlewild Church in Lutz, Fl., in the Tampa area, and has reached its capacity of 20,000 meals per day for several days now for victims of Hurricane Irma and first responders involved in the post-hurricane effort.

Volunteers from Mississippi Baptist churches are needed at

the feeding unit in Florida as soon as possible. Volunteers will receive on-site training for duty at the feeding unit.

The MBDR mass feeding unit consists of a fully self-contained kitchen mounted on a tractor-trailer. The unit carries potable water, its own electrical power generator, and propane supplies for cooking. It was followed to Florida for this deployment by another tractor-trailer filled to maximum capacity with cooking supplies in case local deliveries are interrupted.

In Texas, Mississippi Baptists are continuing their full flow of volunteers into areas affected by Hurricane Harvey. There is much work to be done. Mississippi Baptist teams working out of Orange, Texas, for mud-out/clean-up of homes are especially in demand and will continue to be needed in that area for the foreseeable future, as approved work orders are being received in massive numbers.

see URGENT on p. 9

Expert: Put donations to best use

HOUSTON (BP) — Mickey Caison has seen it many times in his disaster relief career. Well-meaning folks collect a truckload of food and clothing, drive perhaps hundreds of miles to a disaster zone but can find no place to deliver the goods.

Deciding "let's put a trailer on the lot and fill it up with goods to take to Texas, is the most ineffective way of providing support," Caison told Baptist Press from Houston, where he is coordinating the Southern Baptist Disaster Relief (SBD) response to Hurricane Harvey's destruction there.

"We're actually seeing vehicles — vans, pick-ups, rental trucks, there have been 18 wheelers — that are riding around trying to find some

place to give goods that they've collected in other places," said Caison, who retired as SBD director in August of last year. More effective responses include donating cash through trusted channels and providing supplies expressly requested by churches and other organizations, Caison told Baptist

Press (BP). Southern Baptists can also receive official response training in advance of disasters, allowing them to volunteer in such areas as feeding or debris removal.

Buying gift cards and bank cards that allow survivors to

see DONATIONS on p. 9

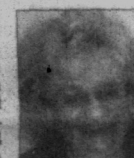
Suspect confesses to church murder

SOMERSET, Ky. (BP and local reports) — Police say convicted killer Dwight Mitchell

Bell, 41, has confessed to robbing and murdering a pastor's widow three weeks ago in the Kentucky church she and her late husband helped found.



BELL



NEW

Bell has been charged with robbery and murder in the death of Ruthie Carolyn New, 70, on Aug. 24 at Denham Street Church in Somerset.

He was taken into custody Aug. 12 after Somerset Police detectives, with the assistance of the Major Crimes Task Force and the Dandridge Police Department in Dandridge,

see SUSPECT on p. 9

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From the editor

WILLIAM PERKINS

Now it's our turn

In Mississippi Baptist life, just as in Christianity as a whole, we are the benefactors of the sacrificial actions and efforts of the spiritual giants who preceded us. They planted this remarkable Baptist garden in which we live today, then others watered it, and we live with the blessings of their faithfulness every day.

One of those spiritual giants, among the many Mississippi Baptists have produced, is Margaret McKee Lackey. She was born in 1858 in Copiah County, the fifth of nine children in the family of James and Elizabeth Lackey. Margaret Lackey went on to attend Hillman College in Clinton, which we now know as Mississippi College.

Raised in the Baptist tradition of the day, Lackey — who never married — had a deep love for missions whose goal it was (and is) to spread the Gospel message of Jesus Christ to people who had never heard of the Savior. She utilized her talents as a gifted poet and writer to help people understand the importance of missions. She was the author of several studies on missions.

In 1912, Margaret Lackey became the first paid leader of the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union (WMU). Her passion for missions was obvious to all who met her. She once wrote, "Sisters, we have done passing well this year, but, oh, the untouched multitudes of women and children in Mississippi whose souls are crying silently yet know not for what they are crying."

After a storied career, Margaret Lackey retired in 1930 from her position as corresponding secretary of Mississippi WMU. Many more Mississippi Baptist women, inspired by her model life, have been raised up by the Lord for Kingdom service since then.

In 1903, Margaret Lackey was among those who led Mississippi WMU to begin a special annual

observance to emphasize the importance of state missions. That special observance eventually became the Season of Prayer for State Missions.

In 1935, the offering taken during the Season of Prayer for State Missions was named in honor of the woman who today remains one of Mississippi Baptists' most outstanding leaders: the Margaret McKee Lackey Offering for State Missions.

Margaret McKee Lackey died in 1948 just a few days short of her 90th birthday, having lived during a most memorable time in Mississippi and American history. As a child, she witnessed the Civil War and the privations of Reconstruction. As an adult, she lived through World War I, the Great Depression, and World War II. No doubt, her life experiences convinced her of the importance of bringing everyone she could to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

The first state mission offering in 1903 received a total of \$294.38. The 2017 goal for the Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering is \$2.1 million. Miss Lackey would be pleased to know that the work in which she so earnestly believed has been carried on in her name for these many years.

Today the Margaret Lackey Offering for State Missions encompasses a multitude of important state programs such as Christian camping, church planting, disaster relief, literacy, and volunteer missionary assistance. Gifts to the offering make possible many of the Mississippi Baptist programs that exist today.

Now it's our turn to tend to the garden. May we be found faithful in this and all endeavors we undertake in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and in remembrance of spiritual giants like Margaret Lackey.

Inside the War Zone

The horrors of Hurricanes Harvey and Irma tell us anew that these are scary times. For those of us who came through Katrina in 2005, nothing about this is fun. We recall all too well the hundreds of deaths, flooded neighborhoods, destroyed churches, and uprooted lives.

God bless our friends as they recover from Harvey and Irma.

I was the director of missions for the Southern Baptist churches of the New Orleans Association, which gave me a front row seat to all that had happened and what the Lord was doing. With that in mind, I would like to offer a few thoughts for the pastors and other church leaders in these war zones:

■ **You are about to see what God can do with thousands of His faithful people.** You already know His power. That has been amply demonstrated, but the power of His people flocking into your area to help neighbors rebuild their lives may be more inspiring than anything you have ever imagined. They will feed the hungry and knock themselves out ministering and giving, and your neighbors will be amazed that they ask nothing in return. As a result, most will be more open to the Gospel of Jesus Christ than at any time in their lives.

■ **This will be a time of great change for your church.** To pastors and other church leaders whose services had been disrupted by Katrina for an indefinite period, I said, "Have you ever wanted to put an end to some of the programs in your church that have outlived their usefulness? Now's the time." When your people come back, just don't restart them. Are there programs you've wanted to begin but just couldn't find the right time? You've been handed a golden opportunity.

■ **This is the time to reach out to your neighboring churches.** Often you will have more volunteers than you need, while the church down the street has none. Reach out to them and share the blessing. Lynn Rodrigue was



Guest opinion
with Joe McKeever

pastoring Port Sulphur Church, some 50 miles below New Orleans. When he found out the Catholic church down the highway needed an electrician and was unable to find one, he sent a volunteer from Oklahoma who was a certified electrician. As a result, Lynn and the priest became friends and eventually they invited Lynn to preach to their congregation, truly a "first" for our part of the world.

■ **Though you are stressed and distressed, keep good records on money given to your church.** At the time we were so scattered and so few, I pulled together a few leaders and asked them to serve as administrative committee for the association. They would pass on all our Katrina-related expenditures and decisions. That way, if and when the day should come that anyone questioned how we spent the hundreds of thousands of dollars funneled through our office, we had the records and the written approvals. No hint of scandal ever appeared.

God bless you during this trying time. Know that you are being loved and prayed for throughout the world. We're going to be watching to see what new things the Lord will be doing in your part of His Kingdom.

McKeever, online at joemckeever.com, is a former Mississippi Baptist pastor. He is a cartoonist whose work is featured in Baptist Press and other media. His commentary appears here courtesy of Baptist Press. Edited for style and length.

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Ga. Baptists crucial in ministering to Irma victims

MACON, Ga. (BP) — As Hurricane Irma evacuees streamed north out of Florida, Baptists in Georgia welcomed those fleeing the storm's looming wrath. One church even turned some of its unused acreage into a makeshift recreational vehicle (RV) campground.

At Lighthouse Church, just off Interstate 75 in Macon, Ga., pastor Tim Sizemore and church leaders decided they could offer evacuees more than their small sanctuary. They ran electricity and limited water and septic hook-ups from the main building to the site of Lighthouse Church's planned future growth property and converted it into a temporary campground.

When word got out, families with RVs, campers, and just cars began pulling into the pastoral setting for rest.

News of the unique venue spread through word of mouth and Facebook, which Sizemore said registered 650 shares, and through the websites of Rehoboth Association and nearby Robbins Air Force Base. He also occasionally trekked over to the Love's Truck Stop to invite strangers who looked tired and in need of a place to spend the night.

Lighthouse Church members provided dinners to the evacuees, "just a traditional Southern Baptist covered dish meal, whatever they have at home or in their freezers... everything from barbecue to cubed venison," Sizemore said.

The church coffee shop became a meet-and-greet place for evacuees, with a flat-screen television streaming live coverage of Hurricane Irma's onslaught on their home state. One Lighthouse member who operates a bakery provided various food items to the guests while a friend of the church who operates a roastery provided coffee.

Evacuees into Georgia

Many of the shelters operated by the American Red Cross (ARC) and by churches were opened along the Interstate 75 corridor, which runs up the spine of Georgia from Valdosta to Atlanta. Other sites were opened along the Interstate 16 corridor from Savannah to Macon.

Shelters in Georgia were in high demand due to congested northbound Interstate traffic, as many weary evacuees were unable to travel as far as they expected. Traffic also forced evacuees to stop for fuel more often than they had planned.

An additional factor was that hotels as far north as Atlanta had been sold out for days, so a free cot in a church or school gym seemed like a good deal. Some evacuees were content to stay in a shelter until the storm passed, with many wanting to leave the next morning to reach relatives or friends as far north as possible.



UNIQUE INVITATION — Lighthouse Church at the Sardis Road exit off Interstate 75 near Macon, Ga., hit upon a special way to serve evacuees heading north from Florida during Hurricane Irma's landfall. (BP photo)



A SAFE PLACE — Hurricane Irma evacuees at a temporary recreational vehicle campground hosted by Lighthouse Church in Macon, Ga., relax in the church's coffee shop as the storm rakes the state of Florida from bottom to top. (BP photo)

CrossPointe Church in Valdosta, one of the first options for evacuees entering Georgia, hosted an ARC shelter with full service from the health department, an onsite nurse, a 24/7 clinic, security from the sheriff's office, and representatives from the Division of Family and Children Services (DFACS).

"We were unable to have our regular services this morning [Sept. 10] because of all the activity," pastor David Rogers said, "but what is interesting is last week I began a series on being salt and light in the world. I never expected that we would be called on the very next week to live that out in such a powerful way."

"There has been a lot of Gospel sharing going on through a one-to-one basis, even with some of the local Red Cross workers," Rogers reported.

CrossPointe Church housed several hundred evacuees in its new building, which was dedicated Easter Sunday. The church has a sleeping capacity of 750 through use of its 1,400-seat sanctuary with moveable chairs

along with its youth center and other rooms.

Brewton-Parker College located south of I-16 in Mount Vernon, Ga., was an early option for evacuees from coastal Georgia. Within four hours of its noon opening on Sept. 10, 45 of 100 beds in Gill Gymnasium were already filled.

The college, which is affiliated with the Georgia Baptist Convention, welcomed both Florida evacuees and a number of individuals from the local community, since law enforcement agencies in Georgia were encouraging residents in less sturdy dwellings such as manufactured housing to seek better protection from the strong winds and heavy rain.

The long trek

At Iglesia Bautista Hispanoamericana in the Atlanta-area community of Lilburn, more than 100 members of a Savannah congregation under mandatory evacuation orders began arriving in the middle of the night on Sept. 7. Samuel Rodriguez, pastor of Savannah congregation Primera

Iglesia Bautista Hispana, received a call in Lilburn about a Florida church with 50 members who were seeking shelter.

The church caravan had fled St. Petersburg and driven to North Carolina seeking shelter but when nothing was found, they drove back down the coast to Savannah. That's when they searched online for local Hispanic churches and found contact information for the Hispanic church there.

Rolando Ruiz, pastor of the Lilburn congregation, extended a welcome to the group who then drove another six hours to the church. By the time the caravan arrived, they had been on the road for 24 hours.

The Savannah church had been hosted in Lilburn last October when Hurricane Matthew struck coastal Georgia. The two pastors, Rodriguez and Ruiz, have a longtime ministry relationship.

Further up the state, Beech Haven Church in Athens opened the doors of its family life center to 73 evacuees. Pastor David Mills said, "about 29 are from Primera Iglesia Bautista Hispana de Indiantown, Fl., a church we visited this summer for a mission trip."

"An additional 44 are from Iglesia Bautista Latinoamericana from Savannah. We have the pastor's son as an intern. This church helped in 2015 with a sports camp here in Athens."

Near Americus, evacuees found a safe haven at Friendship Camp, a ministry of Friendship Association, with 125 volunteers and donors providing their time or supplies to keep the camp running.

Camp director Lance Fendley and Friendship Association director of missions Charles Stoop thanked the association's churches for preparing and serving meals and for their outpouring of diapers and other resources.

Thanks to word of mouth through emergency services and local news media, evacuees found their way 47 miles off I-75 to the

camp, which was sheltering 80 evacuees Sunday afternoon with more arrivals expected.

Evacuees also made their way to First Church in Cuthbert and its ARC shelter at the crossroads of Highway 82, a main evacuation route from the Florida Panhandle, and Highway 27, which runs nearly all the way to Miami.

Evacuees were being housed in the church's family life center with its 50-cot capacity and two sets of showers. In addition to preparing meals at the church, First Church volunteers sent 42 bagged lunches to the Methodist church which had been called into service to shelter clients moved from a nearby drug rehabilitation center.

Churches in Laurens Association, meanwhile, were working with health agencies to support ARC shelters for 1,000-plus evacuees at four local schools near the I-16 corridor in Dublin, with the association's office serving as the collection point for the variety of items needed by evacuees who fled their Florida homes with limited time to pack.

"If the evacuees need it — toothbrush or toothpaste, food, water, pillows or blankets — we sent runners to the location where it is needed," director of missions Bobby Jones said. The churches and community have been extremely helpful in donating the needed items, he added.

At Arabi Church, just west of I-75 between Valdosta and Tifton, pastor Johnny Evans said 20 evacuees had been directed to the church for shelter by the Crisp County sheriff's department and other local law enforcement as they encountered families and individuals needing help.

What is interesting, Evans said, is that last year the church provided solace to a woman fleeing Hurricane Matthew's storm surge in Savannah, and this year when the warning went out the first place she thought of was Arabi Church.

"We've adopted her," Evans said with a smile.

It is an ongoing, fascinating truth to me how things shape our lives. Small things, seemingly insignificant things, big things, and horrifying things weave themselves into who we are and what we become. Experiences can be capsuled in a moment of time as short as the snap of your fingers and yet lives and relationships, feelings and frustrations, are all molded by such instances.

I was visiting with a man who was in his early forties. He was married with children and was telling me what a difficult time he had with his father. It was not something that had just come about, but was a lifelong experience of hurt, animosity, misunderstandings, and a bad relationship that continued to that day, he said. He told me, "So often, I've wanted to talk with my dad about why I feel the way I do, but he doesn't want to know. There are about five times, moments in my life, that have affected me so much that I just can't get beyond it."

I asked him, "If you don't mind telling me, moments like what?" He described two incidences that happened to him in his relationship with his father. I began to understand what he was talking about. He told me when he was a four- or five-year-old preschooler, he went with his dad to a nearby town on some kind of business. They went by somebody's house. A woman came out and stood at the car window, talking to his dad. The young boy paid little attention to the conversation, but what he did remember was that after a few minutes



Directions

With Jim Futrel, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

Shaping a Child's Life

they left and his dad said, "Don't say anything about this to your mother." While the little boy didn't think anything about it and didn't remember anything his dad and the woman talked about, he did remember his dad's instructions to him. It was etched in his mind — don't tell your mother about that woman.

Years went by and finally one day when he was in elementary school he thought to ask his mother about that woman. His mother and father were divorced by then, and the mom began to tell her son that she was now the woman in his dad's life. Suddenly the memories from that preschool experience came to life in the little boy's mind, and he was deeply hurt. In his forties with his own children, that pain still afflicts him.

The second incidence took place upon the death of his mother's dad. He loved his grandfather and was struggling, as we all do with the loss of a treasured relationship. His grandfather had become his father figure. He and his mother lived nearby. The grandfather spent time with the boy, loved him, helped him, and encouraged him, and now his heart was broken that his granddad was gone.

What he remembered, though, was that his father came to the funeral. The boy, by then in grade school and growing up, was standing by the casket holding his grandfather's hand. His dad came alongside him, put his arm around him, and said, "Son, I know you're going to miss your grandfather, but I will be here for you." After the funeral, weeks and months and then

years went by. He never saw his dad, never heard a word from him. That moment has never left his mind nor his heart. "I will be there for you," his dad had said, but he wasn't.

Always looking back and seeing his dad in a position of being a deceiver and an undependable man shaped — and misshaped — his relationship with his father. When Proverbs 22:6 says, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it," that has a lot more to do with living than just lecturing or dropping a kid off at church.

All of us moms and dads need to be reminded often that children see even when we don't think they're paying attention. Children can sense when we are disingenuous. Children carry the sadness, when we don't even realize we've disappointed them in some way. The training of a child takes place internally and externally. It involves all the senses. It is affected by all we say and do — and what we don't say and do — as well as the spirit with which we do it. They feel an uneasiness when they don't understand what we're doing and why we're doing it.

It is only by the grace of God that we can train up a child, bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, and focus their attention on the things of God that we clearly understand from His Word. We can help our children see glimpses of that truth, in the reflections they catch from our own lives.

The author can be contacted at
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Staff Changes



After serving as interim pastor since January 2017, Karl Novak accepted the full-time pastor position at CEDAR BLUFF CHURCH, CEDAR BLUFF. Novak and his wife, Bonnie Novak, returned from New York where they planted Lakeshore Church from 2000-2016. Bonnie teaches for Liberty University Online.

College News



Susan Sweet has been named Young Alumna of the Year, MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE. She was a legislative director under Sen. Roger Wicker and is now senior vice president at Cornerstone Government Affairs in Washington, DC. She is a 2001 graduate and will be honored at the Homecoming Awards Dinner Oct. 20 at 6 p.m. Tickets, \$20.

Bob Terry, class of 1965, has been chosen as a recipient of MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE'S Order of the Golden Arrow. He is president and editor of The Alabama Baptist. Based in Birmingham, the weekly Christian newspaper reaches nearly 200,000 readers. Under Terry's leadership, the newspaper has been named America's top regional Christian newspaper 11 times over the past 20 years.



Bettye Rogers Coward, retired president of Blue Mountain College, has been named Award of Excellence recipient at MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE. She will be honored Oct. 20. Named Blue Mountain College's 7th president in 2001, Coward, then 57, succeeded Harold Fisher after he served 35 years as the institution's leader. She became the school's first woman president. The once all-female, Baptist-affiliated school in north Mississippi dates to 1873.

MS POSITIONS

NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH, LOCATED IN SOUTHERN LAUDERDALE COUNTY, MS, IN THE CLARKDALE COMMUNITY, IS AN ACTIVELY GROWING CHURCH. We are prayerfully seeking to fill a new full time staff position of Associate Pastor of Education and Families. Those who are passionate for God and passionate about developing and ministering to church families, please email a resume to nhbcsocpastorsearch@gmail.com.

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IMB president Platt to add teaching pastor post

RICHMOND, Va. (Special) — Trustees of the International Mission Board (IMB) of the Southern Baptist Convention in Richmond, Va., have agreed to allow IMB President David Platt to assume the role of teaching pastor at five-campus McLean Bible Church in northern Virginia while they evaluate his involvement with the church.

"Our president, Dr. David Platt, has expressed a deep sense of calling to serve as teaching pastor of McLean Bible Church

while also continuing to lead the International Mission Board," said trustee chairman Hance Dilbeck, senior pastor of Quail Springs Church in Oklahoma City, in a Baptist Press report of a trustee meeting last week.

"We respect Dr. Platt and his sense of the Lord's leading; and we recognize our responsibility to hold him accountable for his work leading the International Mission Board. Over the coming months, while Dr. Platt serves as teaching pastor for McLean Bible Church,



PLATT

DILBECK

the trustees of the International Mission Board will evaluate Dr. Platt's fulfillment of his responsibilities as IMB president.

"Trustee also will evaluate McLean's level of partnership with the Southern Baptist Convention. We plan to revisit this matter in our February trustee meeting."

According to a Frequently Asked Questions page on the IMB web site, McLean Bible Church "became a cooperating church with the SBC" in 2016 and serves as a "hub for the North American Mission Board's church-planting efforts in the Washington, D.C., area."

According to the IMB web page, Platt would not be involved in overall day-to-day leadership in the church and he would not receive a salary for his role.

While the McLean Bible Church web site lists as its principles Bible-based beliefs and teaching, an evangelism lifestyle, Christian service, and discipleship, the web site does not mention any affiliations with the SBC or other specifically Southern Baptist groups.



FREE TO PRAY — The Jackson County (Michigan) Board of Commissioners is shown opening a recent official meeting with prayer. (BP screen capture from BoardDocs.com)

Conflicting public prayer rulings may result in a Supreme Court hearing

CINCINNATI, Ohio (BP) — Two conflicting 2017 court rulings in cases challenging public prayer at government meetings increase the chance of a U.S. Supreme Court hearing on the issue, predicted religious liberty advocate Ken Klukowski, senior counsel at First Liberty Institute in Plano, Texas.

The Board of Commissioners in Jackson County, Mi., may legally open its meetings with sectarian prayers, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit in Cincinnati, Oh., ruled Sept. 6. The decision is contrary to a July 14 ruling of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit in Richmond, Va., which said the Rowan County (N.C.) Board of Commissioners' similar practice was "unconstitutionally coercive."

Klukowski said the split creates the precise climate to encourage the Supreme Court to hear an appeal of the ruling in the Fourth Circuit against Rowan County.

"The Fourth Circuit decision was 10-5 against prayer, and the Sixth Circuit decision was 9-6 in favor of prayer," Klukowski told Baptist Press (BP) on Sept. 7. "So that makes (14) federal appeals judges who say this is permitted by the establishment clause of the Constitution, and (16) federal appeals judges who say no it's

not. That is the perfect example of the type of case where the justices of the Supreme Court say, 'We really need to take this and establish a nationwide rule of law on the issue.'"

Rowan County plans to decide in late September whether to appeal the decision, Klukowski said.

"If Rowan County chooses to seek review, that really makes this a top-tier candidate for the Supreme Court to take to make a national decision. Regardless of which way that goes, we're grateful for the victory in the Sixth Circuit and believe that we would have a good chance, or that we would be optimistic of our chances, of a victory for Rowan County if the Supreme Court were to take the case."

First Liberty President and CEO Kelly Shackelford also expressed optimism after the favorable ruling for Jackson County, Mi. Previous courts have found such prayers to be constitutional, First Liberty said. In the 1983 case of *Marsh vs. Chambers*, and *Town of Greece vs. Galloway* in 2014, "the Supreme Court found invocations before government meetings to be fully consistent with the Constitution and an important part of America's history and heritage," First Liberty said in its release.

Film Review: 'Because of Gracia' tackles two challenging issues

By Phil Boatwright
Correspondent

The motion picture, *Because of Gracia*, ventures into two challenging themes — chastity and freedom of speech — in a poignant teen drama featuring former American Idol contestant Moriah Peters.

In limited theatrical release beginning Sept. 15, the first scenario in the movie by ArtAffect Entertainment concerns a Christian high school student who finds herself in a debate class defending the right to teach creationism.

The second plot involves her pledge to remain chaste until her wedding, while a fellow student loses her battle for virtue to a deviant boyfriend.

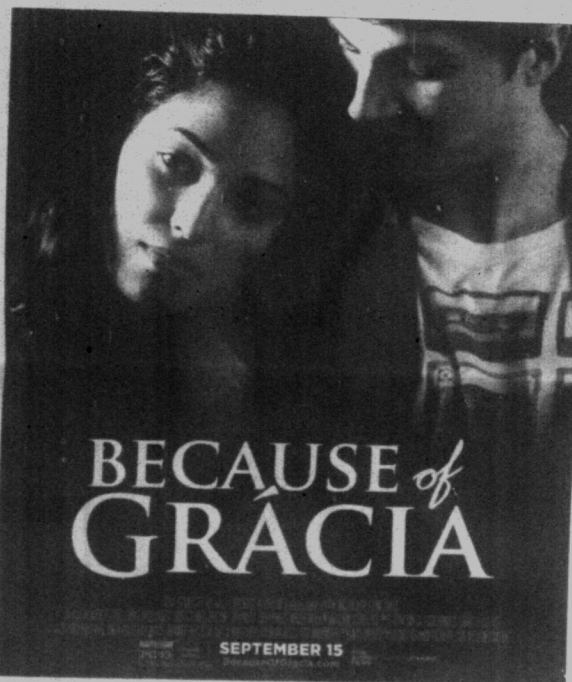
These are two big themes for any movie, but I'm pleased to say that Canadian writer/director Tom Simes (*Underdog*, *Run, Season of Dreams*) handles his creative duties with aplomb while Peters displays a compelling screen presence, coming across as bright and charismatic.

Peters is married to Australian Joel Smallbone, who along with his brother Luke comprise the Christian musical duo, for King & Country. Californian Peters' albums include *I Choose Jesus* and *Brave*.

Because of Gracia enters the creationism fray by dramatizing the defense of creationism and the right to discuss a faith-based ideology in classrooms. Its assertion that people and planets aren't mere accidents is defended rationally and factually.

In the second storyline, Peters' protagonist represents those determined to abstain from any physical affection until married. This is also the view of the film's star in real life.

From the press notes: "At age 16, Moriah Peters tried out for American Idol and told judges Simon Cowell, Randy Jackson, Kara DiGuardi, and Avril Lavigne that she was a Christian who was saving her first kiss for marriage. Peters said the celebrity



judges praised her looks and her singing but belittled her chaste lifestyle. One judge told her, 'You're trying to be too perfect,' while another told her, 'Go out, kiss a guy. Come back.'"

It takes conviction and a great deal of self-control to maintain such a stand, and teens who hold to this conviction should not be mocked. Indeed, if the commitment is made out of reverence for God, the choice should be applauded. Of course, getting the teen populace to adopt abstinence as a lifestyle in 2017 is like throwing snowballs at a forest fire.

Because of Gracia tackles these two concepts — creationism vs. evolution and courtship vs. dating — but it's a movie, not a science class, nor a sermon. If motion pictures are to be successfully used as teaching tools, they must first en-

tertain. Does this one entertain?

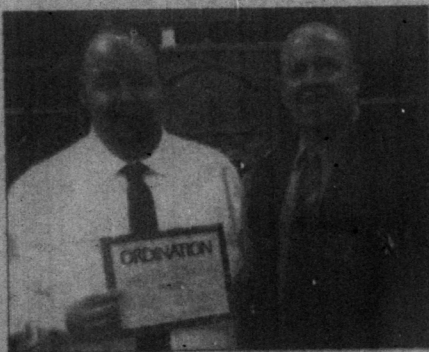
Just my opinion, of course, but I found that everything from its big-league production values to the resonant musical choices and its incisive dialogue and sensitive performances aided in constructing a successful film venture.

It's a message movie, for sure, but its makers know the golden rule of cinema: put the story first.

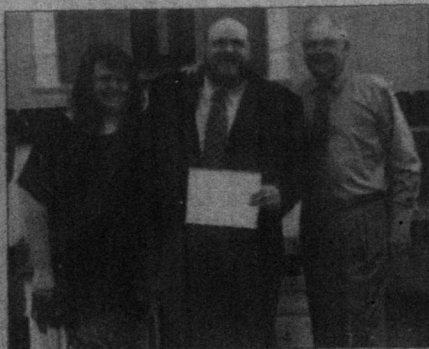
Because of Gracia is rated PG-13 for mature subject matter, but I caught no offensive or exploitative content.

Boatwright, a Christian movie reviewer and critic, is the author of *MOVIES: The Good, the Bad, and the Really, Really Bad*, available on Amazon.com. His commentary appears here courtesy of Baptist Press. Edited for style, clarity, and informational additions.

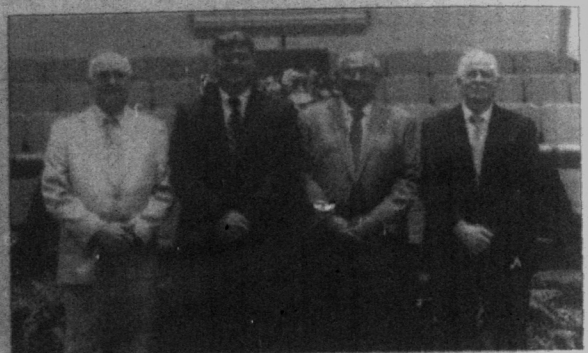
Just for the Record



ROBINWOOD CHURCH, SAUCIER, ordained Danny Jeffries as deacon. He is shown with pastor Terry Upchurch.



HOPEWELL CHURCH, LITTLE ROCK, ordained Eric Brewer as deacon. Shown are Dana Brewer, Brewer, and Tommy Anderson.



FLOWOOD CHURCH, FLOWOOD, recently ordained David Hall, Bob Collier, and Matt Lemly as deacons. Shown are deacon chairman Ray Hall, Hall, Collier, and Lemly.



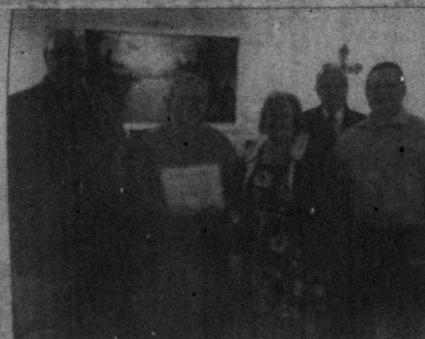
ACKERMAN CHURCH, ACKERMAN, recently held a deacon ordination. Shown are pastor Danny Irvin, deacon Joey King, his wife Stephanie and son Carson.



FIRST CHURCH, MORTON, held a deacon ordination for Roger Dale Tadlock Sept. 10. Shown are pastor J. Peavy, Tadlock, and Fred Johnson.



Kids from **CALVARY CHURCH, VICKSBURG,** recently enjoyed fun activities at their annual back-to-school party.



O'ZION CHURCH, MEADVILLE, recently ordained Bobby Murray and Pat O'Quinn as deacons. Shown are pastor Glenn Bird, Murray, Linda Murray, Pansy O'Quinn, O'Quinn, and Emory May.



Spencer Alderman was ordained as deacon at **CARROLLTON CHURCH, CARROLL COUNTY,** Aug. 27, with his father-in-law, Archie Goodwin, preaching the ordination service. Shown are Goodwin, Stacy, Lane, Layton, and Spencer Alderman.



BEULAH CHURCH, DECATUR, honored Shirley Glenn on her retirement as church treasurer for the last 29-and-a-half years. She is shown with her family members. Gary Rivers, pastor.



The children and youth of **SALLIS CHURCH, SALLIS,** assisted in the promotion of the Margaret Lackey State Missions offering in August. They shared their experiences at Camp Garaway and Central Hills Baptist Retreat and handed out missions brochures to the congregation.



The Children in Action of **FIRST CHURCH, ITTA BENA,** collected supplies for the Baptist Children's Village for their Christmas in August project.

Just for the Record



BELDEN CHURCH, LEE COUNTY, recently ordained Bobby Carnathan and Heath Barker as deacons. Shown are Carmen Carnathan, Carnathan, pastor Jim Holcomb, Barker, and Hope Barker.

CALVARY CHURCH, SUMMIT, held its annual kids back-to-school parade Aug. 23, with 32 children participating. Mike Burns, pastor.



BEULAH CHURCH, DECATUR, presented Sunday School Perfect Attendance Recognition for the 2016-2017 Church Year to the following: Pictured left to right on front row is Mary Ann Kelly-6 yrs.; Nathan Kelly-6 yrs.; Laverne Chaney-40 yrs.; BeBe Williams-2 yrs.; Shirley Glenn-2 yrs. Top row left to right is Billy E. Williams-7 yrs.; Barbara J. Harrison-35 yrs.

CONEHATTA CHURCH, honored teachers, directors, and the secretary of Sunday School for the past year.



FIRST CHURCH, MT. OLIVE, honored first responders recently. Local firefighters and the Mt. Olive police chief were present for the service and enjoyed a fellowship meal afterwards. Bob Phillips, pastor.

TUCKERS CROSSING CHURCH, LAUREL, recently promoted the preschool Sunday School/Mission Friends. Carolyn Holifield, preschool director; Bobbie Bridges, Mission Friends director; Eddie Bryant, pastor.



CELEBRATING
Heritage and Hope

150
YEARS

Sunday
October 22, 2017 10:30 A.M.
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, DURANT, MS

YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN US SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2017.
WE ARE CELEBRATING ONE-HUNDRED AND FIFTY YEARS OF SERVICE
TO OUR LORD AND SAVIOR.
REGISTRATION WILL BEGIN AT 9 O'CLOCK A.M.
SERVICE WILL BEGIN AT 10:30 O'CLOCK A.M.
A FELLOWSHIP MEAL WILL BE SERVED AFTER THE SERVICE.



Senior pastor Branden Rogers, **WADE CHURCH, WADE**, presented deacon Ricky Colvin with his certificate of license Aug. 27



The Children in Action of **HOPE CHURCH, NESHOMA**, recently collected school supplies as their Christmas in August project

NOBTS holds dedication of Adrian Rogers Center on its main campus

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — The Adrian Rogers Center for Expository Preaching at New Orleans Seminary (NOBTS) was dedicated in a Sept. 12 chapel service. The dedication took place on Rogers' birthday. He died in 2005 at the age of 74.

In partnership with the late Adrian Rogers' proclamation ministry Love Worth Finding, the NOBTS center will provide resources and present conferences and lectureships to encourage and equip students and pastors.

The center's inaugural Empowering the Pulpit preaching conference on Jan. 29-31 will feature leading expository preachers Jim Shaddix, professor of preaching at Southeastern Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., and Robert Smith Jr., associate professor of divinity at Beeson Divinity School in Birmingham, Al.

NOBTS President Chuck Kelley in opening remarks noted the significance of naming the center after Rogers, an NOBTS alumnus.

"Adrian Rogers went on from seminary to become one of the greatest pastors in the history of the Southern Baptist Convention, a defining pastor of his generation. We are very excited about starting something that will take new students to the heart of what made this man so impactful and so influential — and this is his preaching ministry, a ministry of God's Word."

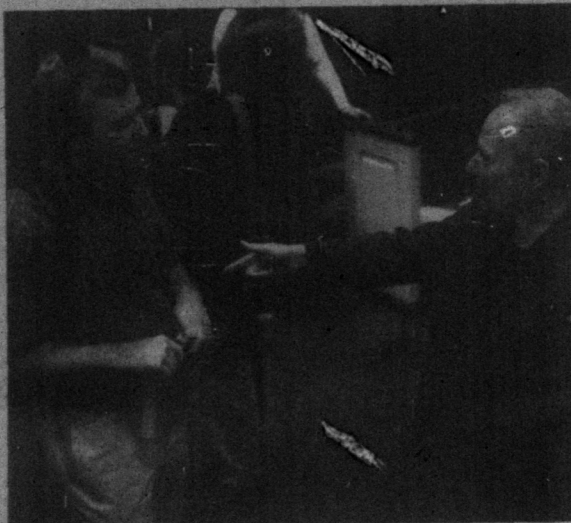
A three-term Southern Baptist Convention president, Rogers led Memphis-area Bellevue Church from 9,000 members to 29,000 during his 33 years as pastor. Love Worth Finding Ministries, founded by Rogers in 1987, provides sermon outlines, podcasts, articles, and other resources for preaching.

Steve Rogers, son of Adrian Rogers, was present for a portion of the dedication service and the luncheon that followed despite flight scheduling complications due to Hurricane Irma.

"We're excited about this. We're behind it," Rogers told NOBTS administrators and faculty on behalf of the Rogers family. "What we're interested in is ongoing ministry and the next generation of pastors, worship leaders, and youth ministers."

Steve Rogers spoke of the "thousands and thousands of hours" he and his brother David spent reviewing 4,000 of his father's recorded sermons, originally preserved on cassette tapes and now digitized, and how it underscored for them their father's commitment to expository preaching.

"For 12 years I've immersed myself in my dad's



DEDICATION — Steve Rogers (right) son of the late Southern Baptist leader Adrian Rogers, talks with New Orleans Seminary student Michael Pogue after the Sept. 12 dedication service for the Adrian Rogers Center for Expository Preaching on the seminary campus. (BP photo)

"We want to make sure students are trained and resourced to serve the church. We want to resource and equip pastors already on the field."

Adam Hughes

director of the Adrian Rogers Center

pastor training curriculum," Steve Rogers said. "It's an incredible laboratory for anybody that wants to study expository preaching."

Adam Hughes, director of the center and NOBTS dean of the chapel, said Rogers modeled faithfulness to God's Word, a love for the church and a heart for reaching the lost.

"Our mission... is preparing a rising generation of men who are answering God's call for excellence in expository preaching," Hughes said. "We want to make sure students are trained and resourced to serve the church. We want to resource and equip pastors already on the field."

In an expository sermon, Hughes said, the God-intended meaning, structure, and emphasis of the biblical text drives the main points as well as the outline and thrust of the sermon, which is then proclaimed to hearers.

Hughes said Rogers' passion for the lost and his understanding of the sufficiency and infallibility of God's Word is "desperately needed today," adding that the cen-

ter's work would complement the classroom.

Bob Sorrell, chairman of the board of Love Worth Finding, recounted that the ministry grew out of a demand for Rogers' sermons. "Adrian never wanted to be a TV preacher, but he permitted his sermons to be recorded on cassette and kept at a closet in the church where members could pick them up... It continued to grow from there and grew into an organization."

Cary Vaughn, chief executive officer of Love Worth Finding, said Rogers' insistence that a Gospel invitation be given at every church event taught him to model that commitment in his own ministry.

Rogers' deepest desire, Vaughn said, was to see others come to faith in Christ. "Let the one takeaway be that if Adrian Rogers were here today, he would say... 'Come to Jesus.'"

Vaughn said Love Worth Finding broadcasts in 196 countries and is tied to 3,000 radio outlets, 10,500 TV outlets, and has the potential to broadcast into 700 million homes worldwide.

In chapel, Kelley recounted Rogers' beginnings as an NOBTS student and tied Rogers' accomplishments and influence, including his pivotal role in the Conservative Resurgence, to his commitment to Scripture.

"Everything good that happened in Adrian Rogers' life flowed out of his commitment to teach his people the Word of God," Kelley said.

Revivals & Homecomings

► **Grace Church, Decatur:** Revival, Sept. 24 - 27; Sun., Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 6:30 p.m.; Steve Winstead, speaker.

► **Mt. Carmel Church, Smith County:** Homecoming, Sept. 24, 11 a.m., followed by potluck dinner and cemetery meeting.

► **Tillatoba Church, Tillatoba:** 132nd anniversary and homecoming, Sept. 24; Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; donut and coffee fellowship, 10:15 a.m., with worship at 10:45 a.m., followed by potluck; Terry Walton, speaker.

► **Beulah Church, Lexington:** Homecoming, Sept. 24; service, 11 a.m., followed by lunch and afternoon singing; Tom Toenjes, speaker; Hunter C. May, music.

► **Pinckney Church, Union:** 170th anniversary and homecoming, Sept. 24, 11 a.m., followed by lunch; William Savell, speaker and pastor.

► **Hope Church, Neshoba Association:** Homecoming, Sept. 24; service, 10:30 a.m., followed by potluck lunch; Doug Broome, speaker; Reuben Moore, music; Dennis Duvall, pastor.

► **Holly Church, Alcorn:** Homecoming, Sept. 24; service, 10 a.m., followed by potluck meal; Gary Watkins, speaker. Revival, Sept. 25 - 26, 6 p.m. nightly; Warren Jones and Marc Howard,

speakers; Thomas Magers, 41, pastor.

► **Sunrise Church, Leake County:** Homecoming, Sept. 24; dinner on the grounds; Wade Chappell, speaker.

► **First Church, Gautier:** Homecoming, Sept. 23 - 24; Billy Williams and John Brock, speakers; for information, call the church at (228) 497-4050.

► **Bethany Church, Whynot:** Sesquicentennial, Sept. 24; cemetery and church tours, 9 a.m.; service, 10:30 a.m.; Smokey Gibson, speaker.

► **Delay Church, Oxford:** Homecoming, Sept. 24; service, 10:30 a.m., followed by fellowship meal; Malcolm Pinion, speaker; Blaine Davis, pastor.

► **Rocky Point Church, Leake County Association:** Homecoming, Sept. 24; covered dish luncheon; Danny Sephton, speaker; Ben Waites, music, with concert at 2 p.m.

► **Academy Church, Cotton Plant:** 175th anniversary and homecoming, Sept. 24; service, 10 a.m., followed by a potluck meal; former pastors, speakers; Paid in Full Quartet, music; Wayne Cobb, pastor.

► **Macedonia Church, Lauderdale Association:** Revival, Sept. 24 - 27; 6:30 p.m. nightly; Kyle Routzahn, speaker; Paul Byrd, music; Virgil Walters, pastor.

BIBLIOCIPHER

ASMCOZS HLS ECID CR HLW ESAGYTH;

RCA ITHC HLSS, C DCAN, NC O

DORH IB FW ECID.

BEYDF SOPLHW-EOV:RCIA

Clue: F = B

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Nahum 1:7

By Charles Marx, 1932-2004, © 2005

DONATIONS

cont. from p. 1

purchase their own choice of goods is also an option, as it gives the recipient dignity while stimulating the local economy.

"It's so much better to be done that way," Caison said, "and more effective in meeting the [fluctuating] needs of clients."

Jeff Palmer, CEO of Southern Baptist International relief partner Baptist Global Response (BGR), also recommends cash donations. He applauds the convenience and effectiveness of donation channels provided by Southern Baptists including the Cooperative Program (CP), disaster relief ministries of individual state conventions, the Southern Baptist Global Hunger Relief Fund, and such North American Mission Board (NAMB) outreaches as Send Relief.

These channels are "the best way to help if you want to give a financial contribution," Palmer told BP, "and we're mobilizing volunteers,

we're mobilizing resources that are close to the source."

While BGR is not an entity of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), it does heartily promote and endorse the SBC's Cooperative Program. BGR's partnership with Southern Baptists in meeting global human needs is fundamentally undergirded by those who give through their local churches to CP and to the Southern Baptist Global Hunger Relief fund.

It's much more effective to buy goods near areas where a particular disaster occurred, Palmer noted, as it drastically reduces shipping costs and stimulates the local economy. Coordinating responses with Baptist partners in disaster zones improves distribution by making sure the neediest people are helped, Palmer said.

"It's not 'the first two weeks and everything's back to normal,'" Caison said. "Thousands of these families are going to be struggling for years to get back into their homes, and if we don't help them, they're not going to be able to get back into their homes."

"Those donations that come in now help us do that."

URGENT

cont. from p. 1

After eight days of response in the Orange area, the MBDR Incident Command team has coordinated 304 volunteers, 32 completed mud-out/cleanup jobs, 1,458 meals for volunteers, and 98 ministry contacts.

"This is outstanding service," said Don Gann, MBDR coordinator and director of men's ministry at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. "Still, over 200 work orders are open. Teams continue to be needed."

For more information on how to volunteer, contact the Men's Ministry Department at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. E-mail: msdisasterrelief@mbcb.org. Telephone: (601) 292-3335 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 335. Web site: www.mbcb.org.

Southern Baptist Disaster Relief (SBDR), in which MBDR participates, continues to deploy volunteers to help respond to immediate needs in Florida and the Caribbean left by Hurricane Irma while still maintaining focus on enormous needs from Hurricane Harvey in Houston, south Texas, and Louisiana.

In Florida, six Southern Baptist Disaster Relief (SBDR)

feeding units from several states in addition to Mississippi are operational.

Florida SBDR volunteers already have initiated cleanup and recovery operations in pockets around the state, from Jacksonville to Naples. Crews from other states will arrive over the course of the next week.

In the days following Hurricane Irma's landfall in Florida, damage assessment teams generally came back with better news than had been expected prior to the storm. Irma nearly leveled several islands in the Florida Keys, however, and widespread power outages remain a serious concern throughout the state.

Several shelters have been set up to accommodate those who are still unable to return to their homes in the Keys.

Reuters reported that Hurricane Irma is responsible for 82 deaths in the United States and in the Caribbean. There have been at least 32 deaths in Florida and seven in Georgia and South Carolina. More than half of the fatalities attributed to the storm happened in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

The situation has been so difficult in the Caribbean that SBDR workers had not been able to get to the Virgin Islands as of Thursday. An Alabama disaster

relief kitchen that had been en route to Puerto Rico has instead been directed to the Virgin Islands after it became clear the need there was far greater.

Feeding units in Texas have started to consolidate their work as people leave shelters to return home or make other arrangements after Harvey's widespread flooding. Even as thousands of homes still need initial mud-out work, a few are ready to rebuild efforts with months of work ahead.

A large SBDR team from New Mexico has arrived in Louisiana to assist with Harvey recovery efforts there. Teams from Colorado have been feeding and mudding-out homes, clearing debris and muck from flooded houses. There are still sites in Texas where SBDR teams are providing childcare.

"God has given the church a great opportunity to respond," North American Mission Board President Kevin Ezell said. "I am asking every Southern Baptist pastor to prayerfully consider sending volunteers to Texas or Florida. Even if you have never sent a volunteer to a disaster before, we need you and the storm survivors need you."

Brandon Elrod of the North American Mission Board, writing for Baptist Press, contributed to this article.

Submission Guidelines

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published.

Preferred method: news may be submitted electronically to the e-mail address below, and must be included in the message segment of an e-mail form. Secondary method: news may be typewritten or neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper and mailed. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone. Due to ever-present virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments in JPEG format are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs must be submitted electronically via e-mail, as attachments in JPEG format. Hard copy photographs mailed through the postal service will not be accepted. Photographs must be clear, sharp, and well-lit. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. Photographs containing inappropriate gestures and objectionable clothing will not be published. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items that do not reproduce well on newsprint are generally not publishable.

There is no guarantee that news items and/or photographs will be published, and unsolicited material will not be acknowledged or returned. All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date. Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. These guidelines are not meant to be exhaustive.

Submit news to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

SUSPECT

cont. from p. 1

Tn., located him in the Dan-dridge area.

Local authorities arrested him without incident on charges stemming from a warrant for the theft of New's automobile, which was found earlier in Indianapolis. Police in Indianapolis had released surveillance images of Bell last week.

According to the Commonwealth-Journal newspaper in Somerset, at the time of his arrest authorities in New Cas-

tle, In., were seeking Bell for questioning in an assault case involving an attempted strangulation. No further details were available.

When New was reported missing by family, Denham Street Church pastor Jeff Griffith searched the church and found her dead, reportedly in a storage area near the church activity center. Authorities have not released details about her death.

New was the widow of the founding pastor of the church, J.S. New. She remained an active member after her hus-

band's death in 2012. As the church's custodian, she often cleaned the church on Thursdays and was perhaps doing so when the murder occurred, according to news media reports.

The Commonwealth-Journal reported Bell was charged in March 1999 with killing his father, Roger Bell, 49, of Wayne County, Ky., who was shot in the head. He pleaded guilty to a lesser charge of second-degree manslaughter and was paroled in 2005, but returned to prison in 2008 for a parole violation. He was released in 2012.

Truth is not relative.

Find it in the One who is the way, truth, and life.

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)

4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Christ today, contact a local Southern Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

THE VILLAGE VIEW



Sean A. Milner, Executive Director
P.O. Box 27
Clinton, MS 39060-0027
601-922-2242
www.baptistchildrensvillage.com

GIFTS OF HONOR AND MEMORY

A portion of The Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to contribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful, and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

AUGUST 31

MEMORIALS

Tony Rooks
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Swathers
Mr. Albert Ross
Mrs. Edith M. Aldridge
Mrs. Helen L. Lammons
Mrs. Wilma Rye
Mrs. Dot G. Griffin
Ms. Mynette Smith
Still Friends
Mr. Jerry Spears
Mrs. Dot G. Griffin
Mrs. Sally Stewart
French Camp Academy Staff & Students
Garvin Toler
Mr. & Mrs. Preston Lovell
Mrs. Ruby Turner
Mr. & Mrs. James E. Clark
Ms. Sue M. Moore
Mr. Buster White
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Goemi
Rev. Don Wilson
Mrs. Carol J. Rafter
Melvin Kelly Wilson
Patrick Witham
Paragon BioTech, Inc.
Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Chapley
Joe Woodard
Mr. & Mrs. Herbert L. Bond

SEPTEMBER 1-15

HONORS

Rev. Aubrey Blalock
Mr. & Mrs. Webb Roberts, III
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Bullen
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Meaher
Mr. James Coward
Ms. Patricia Triplett

Ms. Carolyn Gorton
Ms. Johnnie R. DePoyster

SEPTEMBER 1-15

MEMORIALS

Mrs. Sara Allen
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Jenkins
Mr. J. L. Baggett
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel A. Smith
Mr. Warren Dell "Bo" Bagley
Mr. & Mrs. Curtis McNeil
Mr. Leroy "Pete" Jarham
Mrs. Sarah C. Scott
Mrs. Estelle Becton
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Dew
Mrs. Candace Belk
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Dew
Mr. & Mrs. Hilman L. Brown
E. G. Brown Family
William O. Brown Family
Clara Jackson Family
Paul Ward Family
Willie Donald Brown Family
Mr. & Mrs. Joe Milam
Mrs. Cindy Butler
Mr. & Mrs. Greg Tynes
Mr. Joseph Byrd
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel A. Smith
Mr. Gerald Carpenter
Mr. & Mrs. Lamar Gordon
C. H. Causby
Mr. & Mrs. Sonny Newton
Mrs. Alma Ruth Oliver Corley
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Dew
Mrs. Alice Cox
The Prentiss Cox SSC, FBC Clinton
Ms. Nancy Anderson
Mrs. Christine Loft Day
Mr. & Mrs. Leonard A. Lee
Ms. Barbara Downey
Rev. & Mrs. William B. Webb

Dr. Rayford Edgar
Mr. & Mrs. Terry E. Champion
Mrs. Tessa M. Edwards
Mr. & Mrs. Greg Tynes
Ms. Mildred Flowers
Ms. Libby Patterson
Mr. Wayne Fuhs
Mr. & Mrs. John M. Read
Dr. Gary N. Garner
Mrs. Betty R. Hearon
Dr. Robert Charles Griffith
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel A. Smith
Mrs. Johnny Haniel
Mr. & Mrs. Herman L. Dungan
Mr. Billy Lee Harris
Mrs. Jean S. Moss
Ms. Joy Holston
Mr. & Mrs. Robby (Kathy) Cook
Ms. Suzanne Luckett
Mrs. Mary Rebecca Wise Jarrell
Billy & Elizabeth Seal
Jeanette Stuart
Freedom Baptist Church
Ms. Cecile D. Ingram
Avaana Black
Dianne Moon
Doug Nichols
Mr. & Mrs. Steve Deshotel
WMU Hinkleyfield
Mrs. Ann McCully Jones
Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Cook
Ms. Ann Shannon
Mr. & Mrs. Warren Strickland & Family
Ms. Roberta Jones
Mrs. Julia Knight
Denise & Paul Roberts, Jr.
Russell, Julie, Owen, & Abby Roberts
Mr. Dan Lewman Sr.
Mrs. Nell Cowart
Mary K. & J. V. Parker
Mr. & Mrs. Michael W. Parker
Mrs. Allie Mayers
Mr. & Mrs. Keith Griffin
Mrs. LuJuana McMichael
Mr. & Mrs. Beany Barber
John McMillan
Ronnie, Janice & Sloane Fortinberry
Van McMillan
Ronnie, Janice & Sloane Fortinberry
Mrs. Jean Middleton
Mr. & Mrs. Alton Taylor
Mrs. Doris Neely
Mr. David Hammons
Mrs. Vera M. Parker
CareFlight Tupelo, MS
Mr. Terry Phillips
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Dew
Mr. John Ed Skeem
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Jenkins
Mr. William Bryant Smith
Mr. & Mrs. Lee H. Thompson, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Wallace G. Hillhouse
Mr. Winston Smith
Adult 3 SSC, Unity BC
Mr. James Tynes
Mr. & Mrs. Herman L. Dungan
Amy Wall
FBC McComb
Mr. Ed Wamble
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Dew
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Jenkins
Mr. Julian P. "Sonny" White Jr.
Mrs. Marilyn W. Brady
Mr. & Mrs. Joe Madison, Ben Greer
Mr. Bubba Wiles
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Jenkins
Mr. Melvin Kelly Wilson
Fidelis SSC, Morrison Heights BC
Focus Laboratories, Inc.
Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Buchanan
Mrs. Billie Lynn Arthur
Mr. Debra Schwenk
Ms. Thelma M. Chavers
Ms. Beth Russo

BCV DORCAS IN-HOME FAMILY SUPPORT

Christmas Project

The Baptist Children's Village now has a non-residential program serving children and families in 32 counties. This is in addition to the seven residential campuses already maintained by the ministry. The BCV Dorcas In-Home Family Support Program is designed to aid families that are near the point of collapse. It helps families create homes that are safe and stable for children. Dorcas' Program staff help families reach these goals by providing education and training in areas such as child-rearing and appropriate discipline, household budgeting and shopping, meal planning and preparation, and household safety and care. They assist families in obtaining community services such as healthcare, education, and childcare. By reaching the family's goals, the likelihood that the children of these families will be taken into state custody is greatly reduced.

This Christmas we are trying to provide each family is our care with a slow cooker (ex. Crock-Pot), an electric griddle, and/or a toaster oven. Most of these families have limited resources and their accommodations are minimal. These appliances will benefit their families immensely. We ask that you collect these items to be picked up October 1, 2017 at the Brotherhood Breakfast. Donations and gift cards are also accepted for the purchase of these items. Contact Chrystelle Thames at 601-952-2422 or cthames@baptistchildrensvillage.com to participate.

BCV EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The BCV employs Christian, mission-minded, husband and wife teams, without dependent children or pets, to serve in the position of Houseparents. The couples must be mature Christian adults with personal integrity, character and of good reputation with standards and ethics expected of any member of The Baptist Children's Village staff.

They receive a salary with benefits and are provided a private bedroom and meals while on duty. The primary job responsibility of Houseparents is to maintain a home-like environment that models healthy, Christian family living for children and youth residents. They are the primary caregivers and help with everything from transportation and homework to laundry and meals when on duty.

Houseparent responsibilities are varied and somewhat dependent upon which campus and to which cottage the couple is assigned. However, all Houseparents need to be in good physical, mental and emotional health. They must be cooperative and comfortable working in a team environment.

To apply for the current Houseparent openings, please contact Celeste Cade at ccade@baptistchildrensvillage.com or 601-922-2242.

A complete job description and application may be downloaded at www.baptistchildrensvillage.com.

Victory • Exodus 14:13-28

My theatrical repertoire includes plays in grade school, Christmas plays at church, and the lead female role in the stage production of "The Star Spangled Girl". In 1973, the play was performed at a military installation in Augsburg, Germany. The script written by Neil Simon, consisted of only three actors in the three-act play. Every spare minute was spent memorizing the script and attending rehearsals for the six weeks of performance. As we begin our fourth week in the book of Exodus we will focus on a God-scripted three-act production awaiting the people of Israel entitled "He Leads to Victory".

A few things to make a note of before we get into the heart of our lesson. Go back to Exodus 13:17-22, note the route the people were to take. "God did not lead them along the road of" (v. 17), instead "He led the people toward the Red Sea." God is the director! The people of Israel may not have understood the why of the long way rather than taking the short way, but God knew their hearts. They would be tempted to go back rather than depending upon Him. His way is always the right way. The same is true for us as well, we must make the conscious decision to follow Him and allow Him

to direct our paths (Prov. 3:5-6). It may mean the long way around. His goal is for us to learn to trust His wisdom, rest in His promises and depend upon the leading of the Holy Spirit.

The people of Israel are encamped facing the Red Sea (The Route of the Exodus map). Pharaoh and his servants are asking themselves, "What is this we have done, that we have let Israel go from serving us?" (Ex. 14:5)

And so with chariots, horses, and men; Pharaoh pursued the people of Israel. When the people of Israel saw the Egyptians

marching after them, "they feared greatly" (v. 10) and began to complain stating it would have been better to have stayed in Egypt.

It sounds like stage fright! From Moses, the producer: "Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will work for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall never see again.

The LORD will fight for you and you have only to be silent." (vs. 13-14, italics added). In the next four verses the director, the LORD, gives Moses the how (vs. 16-17) and the why (v. 18) "And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD." Lights! Roll! Action!

Act 1: "The Separation" opens with the angel of God moving behind the host of Israel building a wall of darkness for the Egyptians but on the host of Israel's side there was light. The cloud served as a wall of protection and it symbolized God's presence.

Nothing has been

changed during intermission, therefore Act 2 opens with the actors in the same location. This next Act is entitled, "The Crossing". It is time for scene to change. Moses lifts his staff over the sea and the LORD created a strong east wind to drive back the sea, the land became dry. Then hundreds of thousands of people began making their way with a wall of water on their left and right.

The final act climaxes with the Egyptian forces pursuing the people of Israel as well as their plunge into the Red Sea. They entered in on dry land, but Psalm 77:16-20 describes a rain storm which transpired, "clogging their chariot wheels so that they drove heavily" (vs. 25). They knew it was the LORD fighting against them. As the Egyptians were turning around and trying to get out of the sea bed, Moses stretched out his staff over the sea and the waters returned. None of the Egyptians remained... "the LORD saved Israel that day... they saw the great power that the LORD used... the people feared the LORD... they believed in the LORD..." (vs. 30-31 italics added).

At the end of "The Star Spangled Girl" the audience heard a recording playing the Mormon Tabernacle choir singing, "The Hallelujah Chorus" (Handel). The first hymn in the Bible, "The Song to Yahweh" was played at the end of "He Leads to Victory". Listen to the ending, "The LORD will reign forever and ever" (Ex. 15:18). It sounds like the Hallelujah Chorus to me!

Leathers is a member of First Church, Madison.



Explore the Bible
with Laura Leathers

Fear Not! • 1 John 4:1-6

Fear Not! is a great challenge and it is possible, through faith and love, but certainly not always easy. The most remembered Bible Drill verse by both Children, Youth, and their adult leaders is Psalm 56:3 "What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee." (This is KJV) or the Holman Christian Standard Bible translates it, "When I am afraid, I will trust in You," Psalm 56:3 (HCSB).

The elderly Apostle John explains why we can safely trust in God, "You are from God; little children, and you have conquered them, because the one in you is greater than the one who is in the world," 1 John 4:4 (CSB). The Apostle Paul says, "What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?" Romans 8:31 (KJV). John, in his earlier writings, the Gospel of John, emphasized "I (Jesus) give them (believers like you and I) eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all. No one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand," John 10:28-29 (CSB).

Paul elaborated on his bold claim that God himself is for us later in the

eight chapter of Romans, stating forcefully: "For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord," Romans 8:38-39 (CSB). Don't miss Paul's reference to "the love of God."

John, in his first letter to his little children that he had been forced to leave when the Romans exiled to the Isle of Patmos, talks of this love.

Immediately after the focal passage for today John writes, "God is love," 1 John 4:8b (CSB).

Reading this basic truth, "God is love" in the context of John's love letter to his little children will enrich our understanding of this truth and its implications for us in 2017 AD. "Dear friends; let us love one another, because love is from God, and everyone

who loves has been born of God and knows God. The one who does not love does not know God, because God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his one and only Son in the world so that we might live through him," 1 John 4:7-9 (CSB).

God sent His one and only Son, and it is important that we recognize and follow Him and only Him. John warns,

"Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see if they are from God," 1 John 4:1a & b (CSB).

This is very important because John warns his first century church audience that "many false prophets have gone out into the world," 1 John 4:1c (CSB). Now in this 21st century the false prophets are everywhere and very dangerous. The devil and his followers have all the tools of John's first century world as well as immediate impersonal communication. Radio, TV,

24 hour news cycle, cell phones, social media and the internet have given evil many more ways to communicate his lies. We must be even more alert.

"This is how you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God," 1 John 4:2 (CSB). Jesus was born of a woman, Mary, in a stable in Bethlehem. Jesus faced real temptation as a man. "For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has been tempted in every way as we are, yet without sin," Hebrews 4:15 (CSB). Jesus the man thirsted on the cross and truly died when He was crucified by the Roman soldiers.

John states the logical next truth, "But every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming; even now it is already in the world," 1 John 4:3 (CSB). However we need not fear because, "This is how we know that we remain in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit," 1 John 4:13 (CSB).

Hicks is Associational Missions Director for Jasper Association.

Bible Studies for Life
with Don Hicks



YOUR GOOD WORKS AND GIVE GLORY TO YOUR FATHER IN HEAVEN. MATTHEW 5:16

LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE BEFORE MEN, SO THAT THEY MAY SEE

LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE BEFORE MEN, SO THAT THEY MAY SEE

MISSISSIPPI BAPTISTS

ON HIS

mission

FOR HIS

glory

MARGARET LACKEY
OFFERING FOR STATE MISSIONS
MISSISSIPPI

YOUR GOOD WORKS AND GIVE GLORY TO YOUR FATHER IN HEAVEN. MATTHEW 5:16

MISSION VOLUNTEERS

Doing life together

Katelyn Oaks is a nursing student at Northwest Mississippi Community College. In the summer of 2016, she had the opportunity to serve in Southeast Asia for a month. Part of her responsibilities included working on a longhouse.

"I was able to really connect with a couple of older ladies there," she said. "They would take care of me while I was working, making sure I was wearing a big hat at all times to protect me from the sun, bringing me gloves to wear, making sure I had water to drink when I needed it. We laughed often at the amount of dirt I would have on my face and clothes. We would also laugh a lot as they tried teaching me random words of their language. We would sing and dance in between shoveling rocks into buckets. They were tons of fun."

"Our last night there, there was a party and a time to share. One of the local pastors we were working with shared a message and then had a time of invitation."

"During the time of invitation, every one of those ladies went forward! All we did was cry and praise God for all He had done. Fifty people came to know the Lord that night. To see that handful of people respond, who I had been doing life with for the past three weeks, who I had gotten to fellowship with and love on, who had become so dear to my heart, who were like fam-



ily to me, was absolutely breathtaking. That night I saw God at work."

"Even though I couldn't understand the message being preached, I could feel God's presence! I never truly knew what it meant to let Him be your strength until someone placed a 110-pound bag of mortar on my back so I could carry it to the longhouse. I never had to let God be my strength

until I was shoveling gravel at 3 p.m. in 100-degree weather and someone decides to burn a pile of trash ... right beside my gravel pile. I learned that without God I am nothing but with God I can accomplish anything I set my mind to."

The work of Missions Mobilization is funded in part by gifts to the Margaret Lackey State Missions Offering.

ALLOCATIONS

MISSION VOLUNTEERS | \$685,000

Mississippi Baptists mobilized over 30,000 volunteers last year. Margaret Lackey provides training, travel assistance, and connections to Southern Baptist missionaries in North America and around the world. A \$500 gift helps to send a Mississippi volunteer to Asia. Contact Mike Ray or Cassie Munn at (800) 748.1651 ext 398 or (601) 292.3398.

CENTRAL HILLS | \$405,000

"Learning the ropes" of missions involvement is a key function of Central Hills Retreat in Kosciusko. Almost 5,000 campers were trained last year, and many made decisions for Christ. A \$200 gift will cover expenses for a missionary speaker. For more information contact Don Gann (800) 748.1651 ext 339 or (601) 292.3339.

GARAYWA | \$405,000

Garaywa Camp and Conference Center provided missional training and inspiration for more than 6,800 persons last year. Over 1300 campers attended Garaywa Missions Camp and 70 made professions of faith in Christ. A \$185 gift sends a Mississippi girl to camp. Anne Wilson has more information: 601.924.7034.

COMMUNITY MINISTRY | \$180,000

Margaret Lackey grants help fund church-led mission projects in communities all across our state. Associational Missions Directors identify needs, design Gospel responses, and coordinate the activities. A \$100 gift rents a block party trailer. Talk to your local AMD for more information.

CHURCH MULTIPLICATION | \$175,000

Almost two million Mississippians are unchurched. Margaret Lackey gifts provide the initial funding to start new churches focused on reaching our fellow Mississippians with the Gospel. A \$250 gift provides the weekly rent for a new congregation to meet. Johnny Ervin has more information (800) 748.1651 ext 361 or (601) 292.3361.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE MINISTRIES | \$65,000

Jesus described true faith as "I was in prison and you visited me..." Margaret Lackey funds help provide visits for people in prison: all across our state. Your gifts provide teaching materials for local leaders and seminary classes at Parchman. A \$20 gift purchases a "free on the Inside Bible. For more information contact Charles Jones (662) 721.0264 or John Henry (662) 508.0293.

DISASTER RELIEF | \$65,000

When Mississippi hurts, Baptists care! Margaret Lackey trains disaster relief specialists who are ready at the sound of a siren to cook, clean, clear, and encourage the victims of disastrous events. A \$150 gift provides 50 hot meals prepared by our volunteers. For more information contact Don Gann (800) 748.1651 ext 339 or (601) 292.3339.

LANGUAGE/DEAF MINISTRY | \$40,000

Margaret Lackey makes sure our non-reading and non-hearing neighbors have access to the Gospel. Your gifts helped train more than 100 leaders for ESL, ARW, and Chronological Bible Storying. A \$20 gift provides the training workbook needed by volunteers. Call Cindy Townsend (800) 748.1651 ext 318 or (601) 292.3318 for more information about Language Ministry. Call or text Jim Booth (601) 201.3361 for more information about Deaf Ministry.

CROSS CULTURAL EVANGELISM | \$32,500

Margaret Lackey recognizes 6 different language groups in Mississippi. The offering funds also help share the Gospel with over one million African-Americans. A \$10 gift provides a foreign language Bible. Chris McNairy has more information (770) 814.1405.

CWJC/CMJC | \$25,000

Twenty-four percent of Mississippi's population lives below the poverty line. Christian Men's/Women's Job Corps combine discipleship and job skill training to assist men and women. There are more than 20 CMJC/CWJC sites across our state. A gift of \$20 provides What Every Church Member Should Know About Poverty, a resource for training ministry volunteers. Tammy Anderson (800) 748.1651 ext. 323 or (601) 292.3323 has more information.

COLLEGIATE OUTREACH | \$12,500

Through our BSU organizations, Margaret Lackey encourages international and ethnic students to explore the Gospel and meet Christian believers. A \$25 gift helps host Gospel fellowships on major campuses. Contact Lloyd Lunckford or Jennie Taylor at (800) 748.1651 ext 299 or (601) 292.3299.

PORT MINISTRY | \$10,000

More than 5,000 international sailors visit Mississippi every year. Through port ministries in Pascagoula and Gulfport, Margaret Lackey offers a Christian witness and warm hospitality. A \$5 gift purchases a Jesus Film that sailors can take home with them. Adrian Turner (229) 623.0103 has more information about the Pascagoula Ministry. Steve Mooneyham (228) 832.4311 has more information about the Gulfport Ministry.

GOAL \$2,100,000